BEDDING SWEET POTATOES

Clemson College, Feb. 27.—The time for bedding sweet potatoes in the open ground is after danger of frost say March 15 to April 1, usually four to six weeks before planting time, says Geo. P. Hoffman, Extension horticulturist, in discussing the bedding of sweet potatoes. If a hotbed is to be used, the potatoes should be bedded four to six weeks before danger of frost is over, Feb. 15 to 20. The following suggestions are made as to selection of seed, treatment for disease prevention, and preparation of plant bed.

Seed Selection.—Use healthy, uniform seed from the best yielding hills of disease-free potatoes of the desired type. Throw out all potatoes which will have roundish black spots on the surface, or rotten ends, or bad wounds. To guard against stem rot split the stems and if they are blackened inside do not use for seed.

Treatment for Disease Prevention —immerse the potatoes for five to eight minutes in a solution of 40 percent formaldehyde made by diluting one quart of formaldehyde in fifty gallons of water. Corrosive sublimate may be used instead of the formaldehyde by diluting one ounce of corrosive sublimate in warm water and adding eight gallons of water, in which the potatoes should be immersed for ten minutes. Potatoes should be bedded promptly after treatment.

Preparation and Handling of Plant Bed.

Potato plants are usually grown in open ground in this state, but for early plants the hotbed is recommended. Note following points in preparation and care of bed.

1. Locate the bed in a southeastern exposure, with protection from wind preferred; easy reach of water; good drainage; and preferably new land.

2. Break land deep, scoop out 3 or 4 inches of soil rather than dig a deep pit. Make bed rectangular, not over six feet wide, length to accomodate the seed bedded. Burning bed site, as in making tobacco beds, helps destroy weeds and sterilize soil.

3. Mix approximately half and half cotton seed and horse stable manure for heat (15 bushels of cotton seed to a plot 6' x 144') and put down a layer of 4 to 6 inches. Level, pack, and if dry sprinkle. Cover the miture with 2 to 3 inches of sand. Allow this to remain 24 to 36 hours before bedding to prevent potatoes overheating.

4. Immediately after heating, bed potatoes so as to be nearly touching. Cover with one inch of sand, then one inch layer of unpacked pine straw, and cover straw with 4 inches of sand. The straw prevents pulling potatoes out of ground when plants are pulled.

5. Bed three to four bushels for enough plants for each acre, or 10 to 14 thousand plants.

6. Use light canvas, heavy muslin, or glass to protect plants from frost.

7. Pull plants often to encourage production.

8. Water plants often to prevent dryness, but do not keep bed soggy. Two inches of straw loosely thrown on is good to prevent soil baking, water-packing, and mild frost injury.

DELINT COTTON SEED BEFORE PLANTING

Quick Uniform Germination Important in Presence of Boll Weevil

Clemson College, Feb. 27.—as the cotton planting season approaches, and in view of the heavy boll weevil infestation and the importance of taking every possible step to give cotton a good early start in the race against the weevil, it is suggested again, as ti was last planting season, that farmers delint cotton seed before planting, as one means of getting an early crop of cotton.

Delinting is especially valuable when conditions are unfavorable for seed germination. It hastens germination from two to eight days depending on soil and climatic conditions, makes germination more uniform, and tends to prevent disease. Delinted seed can be more evenly planted, and it requires fewer seed to plant an acre. Below are directions for delinting seed with sulphurice acid.

Materials Needed

Concentrated sulphuric acid about 8 pounds for each bushel of seed. Three wooden or earthen tubs, one of which should have a number of small holes in the center of the bottom with a copper wire screen over them to precent the seed from passing through. A large glass or earthen funnel with a screen may be used instead. Plenty of water.

Directions for Treating Seed

Place seed in tub "A" which has no holes in bottom and cover with acid five to ten minutes. Stir seed constantly with a wooden stick until lint is removed. Next pour seed and acid in tub "B," which has holes in bottom and which has been placed over tub "C," which has no holes in bottom. As soon as the acid is drained off, wash seed with water until free from acid. If a good stream of running water is applied this does not take long. Spread seed on floor or on sheets in the sun to dry. When dry they are ready to plant.

Caution

If left unnecessarily long in the acid the seed will be killed. Wooden tubs must be tight. Tubs which require to be tightened by swelling with water will not do, as the acid takes all the water out the wood. Acid must be handled with care, for it will eat holes in any clothing which it touches.

FEEDING THE FARROWING SOW

Clemson Colelge Feb. 28.—Ten days before breeding time the ration for brood sows should be increased. This heavy feeding, commonly known as flushing, wil lincrease the number of pigs farrowed. Experimental work at some of our experiment stations shows that when sows are heavily fed for a few days before farrowing they will farrow o nthe average two more pigs per litter than when poorly fed. This increase in number of pigs farrowed is of great important from the standpoint of economical pork production, says Prof. L. V. Starkey, chief of the animal husbandry division, who makes the following suggestions on feeding the farrowing sow.

Sows thin in flesh should have their feed gradually increased so as to be in good condition before farrowing. A few days before farrowing the feed should be decreased and should be sloppy rather than dry. Constipation at this time should be avoided. A little wheat bran in the ration will help to overcome this difficulty. Sows which are constipated and feverish sometimes eat their pigs.

For twenty-four hours after farrowing the sow should receive no feed, but should be offered water: and for three or four days after farrowing should be fed lightly with some such feeds as bran in the form of a thin slop or a slop made from eual parts of corn meal and bran stirred in skim milk or buttermilk.

Feed the Pigs Through the Sow

As the pigs get stronger and able to use the entire milk supply the sow's ration should be gradually increased. The coarse feeds so satisfactory at other times must now be withheld and rich concentrates must be fed. It is a mitsake to stint the sow and try to feed the pigs separately. The best way to feed the pigs is to feed the sow well and count on her to feed the pigs.

A good ration for a sow suckling a litter is equal parts of corn and middlings. For every pound of this mixture fed should be fed three pounds of skim milk or buttermilk

Another satisfactory ration is corn 40 per cent. middlings 30 per cent. ground oats 20 per cent. and tankage 10 per cent.

It is easy to make runts out of well bred pigs by not feeding the sow well. A brood sow should receive therefore al lthe concentrates she will clean up as soon as the pigs are large enough to take the milk.

Subscribe to The Times

Editorial from Southern Tobacco Journal About Co-operative Marketing

(Continued from page six)

tobacco grown on the same farm. Why not get the figures, cost of handling etc., and tell about the Virginia cooperative association or to get a little closer home, tell about the Peanut Growers Association in this state, though of course the comparison there would not exactly apply to tobacco; is this association a success? Tell us about it.

Now comes Dr. Joyner's serious and startling statement. "We believe that because of the better prices that the toabeco farmer ought to receive for his crop under a better and more profitable system of marketing, the 50 or 60 per cent advance received upon delivery wil almount to approximately as much as his entire crop sold under the present system."

Read the above paragraph again, very carefully. Dr. Joyner boldly expresses the belief that the price of tobacco will be approximately dbubled by the association. His only hope for any saving in expenses is in the receiving warehouse against the auction sale warehouse; the present warehouse charges average about $1.00 per cwt., on $25.00 tobacco, so on this years crop, if he saved all the warehouse charges, he would only save one cent per pound. He can't possibly hope to handle, redry and store cheaper than big, well organized companies are now doing the same work, so to get more for the farmer he must increase the price.

Think a moment, Dr. Joyner. You are assuming a great responsibility when you ask the farmer to put his tobacco in the control of your association, for five years. In order to induce him to do so you say in effect that yu believe you can approximately double the price. Do you really think that? You know general business conditions, you know the desperate situation in foreign countries, you know the echange rate against foreign markets which use tobacco—Do you really believe your association can make the 1922 tobacco bring 40 to 50 cents per pound average? Thats just what your statement means, assuming that the 1922 crop would be no better than the one just sold which will average in the state something near 25 cents. Remember, the government figures show that there is now held in the United States about 1,500,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco. Do you think with this enormous stock of leaf on hand you can double the price for the next crop and make the buyers take it? The Kentucky association sold a large quantity—Did they get as much or more than auction sale prices? You can find out—do so and tell the farmer. Don't you know that they sold what is considered the most useful part of the crop at an average of about 25 cents per pound? Good burley tobacco is just as valuable as North Carolina flue cured and yet their best medium and good grades brought no more than this years average in North Carolina for all grades. If the Kentucky organization is a success, why didn't they charge more for their tobacco? Can you hope to do better than they did? Do you think it is fair to hold out such rosy prospects to honest hard working farmers? Think once please, do you really believe you can double the price of tobacco?

We have emphasized the above because the statement is being generally made by organizers and it is the most dangerous—why? Because it will tend to largely increase production and that means—disaster. Tobacco in North Carolina this year brought about $150.00 per acre, cotton about one third that amount, say $50.00 per acre, corn and wheat about 10 per cent (or less) of the amount received for tobacco. Tobacco was after all the most profitable crop. The fear of the boll weevil will change many acres from cotton to tobacco; this promise of high prices for tobacco will cause neglect of grain crops; you are inviting disaster down upon our good people, Dr. Joyner, and we know you don't intend to. The great danger and the most serious result which will come from all this agitation is this; The farmers who join the association think some one is going to take care of them and have the promise of largely increased returns, naturally they will think it wise to raise more tobacco. The farmer who doesn't join thinks half the crop or more will be pooler and that he will have a good chance to sell for better prices, so he also will increase acreage. The result—over-production—disaster. Consider this phase of the matter: Suppose the association could force prices up to 40 or 50 cents per pound, average, there would be produced in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi two hundred million pounds of bright tobacco. The boll weevil threatens the destruction of the cotton crop there and they are ready to raise tobacco. We have no monopoly in the old tobacco states, it can be grown almost anywhere. Fine tobacco is already grown in the states mentioned. Selfishly we are afraid for the farmers of the "old belt," North Carolina and Virbinia Our only moeny crop is tobacco. Our farmers must scratch these poor hills and make tobacco. Increased territory and increased production will hurt our farmers, perhaps destroy the value of their only money crop. We wish you wouldn't do that Dr. Joyner.

Now let us say again in closing this article that we do not doubt the sincerity of many of the leaders in this movement, but we do know that they don't realize the difficulties confronting them and fear very much that they will only hurt the farmers whom they wish to help. We have no quarrel with any farmer who desires to join and have not advised any individual not to "sign up." When it is all over we will welcome them back to the auction sale and do our best to help recoup their losses.—The Southern Tobacco Journal.